

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid which is chosen from the group consisting of:

(i) the nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:51,

(ii) a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:51 and

(iii) the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

Claim 64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) An isolated HCV polynucleic acid which is selected from:

(i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 52, 138, 155, 174, and 190,

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i).

66. (Currently Amended) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~to any of claims 63 to 65.~~

67. (Currently Amended) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

- transformation of an appropriate cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~to any of claims 63 to 65~~ has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

- culturing said transformed cellular host under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

- harvesting said polypeptide.

68. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to claim 63 or claim 65 ~~any of claims 63 to 65~~ operably linked to prokaryotic, eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

69. (Previously Presented) An isolated host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 68.

70. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to claim 65 ~~any of claims 64 to 65~~.